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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL
USES OF OUTER SPACE

MATTERS RELATING TO THE PLANNING OF THE SPECIAL SESSION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE (UNISPACE III)

Report by the Secretariat

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INTRODUCTION

1. The General Assembly, in resolution 47/67 of 14 December 1992, recommended that Member States might discuss, during the following sessions of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, the possibility of holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III). Since that recommendation was made, the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee have continued to consider the matter (see annex I).

2. Having considered the work conducted in 1995 by the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Assembly, in its resolution 50/27 of 6 December 1995, agreed that such a conference could be convened before the turn of the present century. In the same resolution, the Assembly recommended that the Subcommittee should continue its work to complete the development and refinement of a framework that would allow an evaluation of proposals by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session, held in 1996, and that this framework should allow for the consideration of all possibilities of achieving the final objectives of such a conference.

3. In its resolution, the Assembly also agreed that, on the basis of the work to be conducted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its session in 1996, the Committee should consider all issues related to the possible convening of a third UNISPACE conference, with a view to making a final recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session.

4. Having considered the report of the Committee on its thirty-ninth session (A/51/20),[1] the Assembly, in its resolution 51/123 of 13 December 1996, endorsed the recommendation that a special session of the Committee, open to all Member States of the United Nations (UNISPACE III), should be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna, preferably in 1999, unless progress towards agreement on an agenda by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session, to be held in 1997, made it more appropriate to consider the year 2000.

5. The Assembly, in the same resolution, also requested the Committee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to act as the Preparatory Committee and Advisory Committee and the Office for Outer Space Affairs to act as the executive secretariat for UNISPACE III. The Preparatory Committee and the Advisory Committee were requested to carry out the tasks entrusted to them in paragraphs 178 to 185 of the report of the Committee on its thirty-ninth session.

6. In order to assist the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in its role as the Advisory Committee, the Secretariat was requested by the Committee, in paragraph 182 of the above-mentioned report, to provide information on the planning and execution of UNISPACE III.

I. SCOPE OF THE PRESENT REPORT

7. The present report is divided into five sections. Section II covers the recommendations and decisions of the Committee and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, endorsed by the General Assembly, relating to the holding of UNISPACE III. The level of conference servicing resources that could be provided within the existing resources currently allocated to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies is examined in section III. Possible regional and international activities to be organized and coordinated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications are discussed in section IV. Section V provides a possible programme of work for UNISPACE III, including some issues to be discussed at UNISPACE III and the organization of work.

8. Section III provides information on the assumption that the level of conference resources allocated to the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during the biennium 1998-1999 remains the same as the level approved by the Fifth Committee for the biennium 1996-1997. It should be noted that any shortening of the sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during the year of UNISPACE III as a result of the ongoing informal consultations on the working methods of those bodies would result in additional resource requirements for UNISPACE III.

II. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE ENDORSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY*

A. Objectives of UNISPACE III

9. The primary objective of UNISPACE III is: to promote effective means of using space technology to assist in the solution of problems of regional or global significance; and to strengthen the capabilities of Member States, in particular developing countries, to use the applications of space research for economic, social and cultural development.

10. Other objectives of UNISPACE III are: to provide developing countries with opportunities to define their needs for space applications for development purposes in advance of UNISPACE III; to consider ways of expediting the use of space applications by Member States to promote sustainable development, particularly in implementing the recommendations contained in Agenda 21,[2] adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through the involvement of a larger number of developing countries in international research programmes such as the global change programme; and to provide a

*The General Assembly, in its resolution 51/123, endorsed the recommendations and decisions of the Committee relating to UNISPACE III, as contained in the report of the Committee on its thirty-ninth session (A/51/20, paras. 176-184) and the report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-third session (A/AC.105/637, annex II, paras. 19-32).

valuable forum for a critical evaluation of space activities and to increase awareness among the general public regarding the benefits of space technology.

B. Organization of UNISPACE III

1. Modalities of UNISPACE III

11. As indicated in paragraph 4 above, UNISPACE III would be held as a special session of the Committee, open to all Member States of the United Nations. It would be held at the United Nations Office at Vienna for a period of up to 10 days. UNISPACE III should be convened preferably in 1999, unless progress towards agreement on an agenda by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its thirty-fourth session makes it more appropriate to consider the year 2000. The Subcommittee, as the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III, was requested by the General Assembly in resolution 51/123 to finalize the agenda and agree on a specific date at its thirty-fourth session.

2. Preparatory activities and issues to be considered in preparing the agenda of UNISPACE III

12. The Advisory Committee was requested to work out the organizational aspects of UNISPACE III and a schedule of events, taking into account the need to have the widest possible participation, including the participation of private industry.

13. In carrying out its task, the Advisory Committee should take into account the relevant agreements and decisions reached by the Committee and the General Assembly at their sessions held in 1996. Paragraphs 14 to 19 reflect those agreements and decisions.

14. Issues relating to international cooperation in the development and utilization of space science and technology, particularly in those areas where space could make a substantive and cost-efficient contribution to major development areas, should be thoroughly examined at UNISPACE III.

15. The forums provided by specialized groups and other regional or international conferences, symposia and meetings could be utilized to define a few focused themes to be considered at UNISPACE III. Relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, with mandates in specific fields of space activities, as well as potential funding organizations, should be involved in organizing UNISPACE III. The goal should be that all such organizations should also be involved in the preparatory activities in order to ensure the implementation of recommendations of UNISPACE III. The agenda for UNISPACE III should be sufficiently detailed to allow the participation of those organizations in its planning and execution.

16. As there are a significant number of conferences and training courses held each year worldwide, and many of those events are oriented to the needs of developing countries, UNISPACE III or any other possible topical meetings to be organized under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications would not aim at duplicating or replacing such regular and ongoing events. Regional conferences or events could be convened to discuss matters of particular relevance or concern to the region, and any conclusions of such events could be forwarded, as appropriate, to UNISPACE III for its consideration.

17. Resource requirements of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications should be carefully reviewed to ensure that the Programme could be effectively oriented towards conference preparations during the 18-month period prior to UNISPACE III.

18. The Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the International Astronomical Union (IAU) and the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS), as well as other relevant organizations, should be asked to prepare background documents.

Those organizations could also be invited to organize, in cooperation with the executive secretariat, a UNISPACE forum to be held as part of UNISPACE III.

19. UNISPACE III should not be a simple repetition of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82), as space activities have significantly advanced since that time, and many of the issues then covered are now being dealt with by other means.

3. Financial aspects

20. In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, as endorsed by the General Assembly, concerning the financial aspects, in planning and executing UNISPACE III, all efforts should be made to limit costs and to keep within the existing resources of the Committee and its secretariat by reducing or curtailing the duration of sessions of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies during the year of UNISPACE III. Additional activities might be undertaken using voluntary contributions from Member States and international organizations, in the form of cash, or human and other in-kind resources.

III. CONFERENCE SERVICING REQUIREMENTS

A. Duration of sessions during the year of UNISPACE III

21. In accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, and in order to provide the conference services for UNISPACE III as indicated in paragraphs 24 to 30 below, while meeting the budget targets of the United Nations, the following may be proposed as an exceptional meeting pattern for the year of UNISPACE III, subject to the schedule of conferences and overall resources allocated by the General Assembly for conference services at the United Nations Office at Vienna for the biennium during which UNISPACE III is to be held.

Session	*Duration in days*	*Date*
Scientific and Technical Subcommittee	5	Early February
Legal Subcommittee	8	Immediately following the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee
Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	3	Early April
UNISPACE III	10	June or August (to be confirmed)

22. During the year of UNISPACE III, the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee would be devoted to finalizing its work as the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III, and consideration of regular agenda items would be suspended. The session of the Legal Subcommittee may be held immediately after the conclusion of the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, since, unlike in other years, no feedback is expected from the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to the Legal Subcommittee on issues of concern to both bodies. The total meeting time required during the year of UNISPACE III, as indicated in paragraph 21, would not exceed the total time in the current meeting pattern.

23. The Committee might meet approximately one month after the Legal Subcommittee and two to four months before UNISPACE III. The Committee might allocate the first day and a half for consideration and adoption of the report of the Legal Subcommittee and another day and a half to perform its functions as the

Preparatory Committee, adopting the report of the Advisory Committee and finalizing the preparations for UNISPACE III.

B. Conference documentation

24. Documentation for UNISPACE III is divided into pre-session documents, in-session documents and post-session documents. Pre-session documents of UNISPACE III include: abstracts of national papers to be submitted by interested Member States; background papers, including those submitted at the request of the Advisory Committee on specific issues to be discussed at UNISPACE III and others submitted by interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; draft reports of subsidiary bodies (see paragraphs 44 to 48 below) to be adopted at UNISPACE III; and other documents concerning the organizational aspects of UNISPACE III, including the provisional agenda and rules of procedures. Reports of the Advisory Committee and the Preparatory Committee, to be prepared prior to UNISPACE III, should be included in regular reports of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Committee.

25. The submission of a national paper should be accompanied with a one- or two-page abstract in one of the official languages of the United Nations. Abstracts of the national papers will be translated and issued in all official languages. National papers will be issued only in the languages of the original submission.

26. Background papers will be divided into commissioned papers and non-commissioned papers. The commissioned papers, which are prepared in response to requests by the Advisory Committee on specific subjects, will be translated and issued in all official languages of the United Nations. The non-commissioned papers, to be submitted by interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on their own initiative, should be provided in sufficient numbers of copies for distribution to delegations.

27. In-session documents include working papers submitted by Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations during UNISPACE III, reports of subsidiary bodies (see paragraphs 44 to 48 below) adopted at UNISPACE III and conference room papers prepared by the Secretariat. Post-session documents mainly consist of the final documents adopted at UNISPACE III. The working papers, reports of subsidiary bodies and final documents will be issued in all official languages.

28. Considering the average annual volume of documentation required for the Committee and its subcommittees and the expected volume required for the regular sessions of those bodies, which would meet in the exceptional meeting pattern indicated in paragraph 21 during the year of UNISPACE III, it is anticipated that the total volume of documentation during that year, including documentation for UNISPACE III, could be the same as the average volume in the previous years.

C. Conference site

29. Pursuant to the decision by the General Assembly, in its resolution 51/123, UNISPACE III will be held at the United Nations Office at Vienna. Conference facilities will be provided according to the standard procedure at the United Nations Office at Vienna.

D. Conference secretariat

30. The Office for Outer Space Affairs will act as the executive secretariat for UNISPACE III and provide the Executive Secretary of UNISPACE III. Within the current staff resources, the Office could ensure the compilation of abstracts of national papers, preparation of background papers and reports of UNISPACE III, as well as the coordination of preparatory activities for UNISPACE III under the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. In order to augment the work capacity of the Office, three to four experts might be provided by interested member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to serve

as technical editors or writers in preparing background papers and other technical documents and to assist in organizing topical seminars and exhibitions, as necessary.

IV. PREPARATORY ACTIVITIES FOR UNISPACE III: REGIONAL SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS

31. Once the Advisory Committee has decided on the main themes for UNISPACE III, the resources and expertise of the Office, particularly those of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, will be used to organize a coherent series of regional workshops and seminars aimed at building a common understanding among the international space communities of the main issues to be discussed during UNISPACE III.

32. In order to enhance the possibility that concerted follow-up actions are one of the main outputs of UNISPACE III, the workshops and seminars will involve all relevant national and international organizations from both industrialized and developing countries in the preparatory activities for UNISPACE III. Three types of workshops and seminars would, in principle, accomplish that objective.

33. The workshops and seminars, described below, will provide participants with an overview of the general objectives and themes to be addressed by UNISPACE III, and focus on topics of relevance to the programme of the workshop or seminar. Reports on those activities will be prepared for the Advisory Committee, and could be used as background documents for UNISPACE III.

34. One type of workshop or seminar could contribute to the identification of a number of specific problems of broad interest to a large number of countries for which space technology can provide cost-effective solutions. Participants with backgrounds in disciplines relevant to the activity will be included. The output of discussions at the workshops and seminars might also highlight areas of basic research, education and industrial ventures that are of high international interest.

35. The workshops and seminars will be organized by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in cooperation with interested Governments and institutions that would host or co-sponsor the activities. Except for having a larger number of participants from a broader spectrum of disciplines, those events would be very similar to those currently organized under the Programme on Space Applications.

36. A second type of workshop or seminar could be organized within, or parallel to, the regular scientific meetings of international and regional scientific organizations such as COSPAR, IAF and the ISPRS. Those workshops would serve both to inform the participants about the objectives and themes of UNISPACE III and to provide the scientific and technical communities with opportunities to express their interests. Such workshops would be less work-intensive and reach very large numbers of participants. However, additional voluntary contributions will be required to ensure adequate participation of the scientific and technical communities from developing countries.

37. A third type of workshop or seminar could be organized in cooperation with private industry. The Office for Outer Space Affairs would coordinate the organization of activities with space agencies, relevant government agencies and professional and industrial aerospace societies. Participants would include: companies that provide hardware, software, data and other material space products; companies that generate value-added products; and companies involved in developing and commercializing spin-off products; space agencies (as developers of an important portion of the technology that is commercialized); entrepreneur-oriented companies or individuals who might be interested in evolving creative new spin-offs or applications of space technologies; and high-level policy makers and project managers in government institutions (such as commerce, education, health, communications, agriculture, transportation, environment and internal revenue).

38. These workshops would serve: to enhance the understanding of the needs for space technology to execute current national development programmes and the availability of diverse space technologies to meet those needs; indicate preliminary areas in which spin-offs of space technology might generate new industrial products or services or in which industries from developed countries might initiate joint ventures with developing countries; and to identify the roles that the private sector could profitably play in implementing the recommendations of UNISPACE III and in promoting international cooperation in space activities.

39. Well-coordinated preparatory activities should create a pragmatic work atmosphere for UNISPACE III. The workshops and seminars should motivate the various space communities to proactively participate in UNISPACE III in order to establish a common understanding for follow-up activities that meet their interests. Furthermore, if the results of those activities were broadly disseminated, the general public at the global level would increase its appreciation of the multiple benefits that space science and technology already provide and its expectations of what it could do in the future.

V. PROGRAMME OF WORK OF UNISPACE III

40. Paragraphs 41 to 49 present an indicative programme of work for UNISPACE III. The Committee requested the Advisory Committee, at its session in 1997, to finalize the agenda and agree on a specific date for UNISPACE III (A/51/20, para. 178). Ideas contained in paragraphs 41 to 43, in particular, may be considered by the Advisory Committee in preparing the agenda.

A. Issues to be considered in the preparation of an agenda

41. At its session to be held in 1997, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in its role as the Advisory Committee for UNISPACE III, should consider all proposals before it and finalize the agenda for UNISPACE III. The proposal submitted by the Group of 77 during the session of the Subcommittee held in 1996 (see A/AC.105/637, annex II, appendix I) contains a possible agenda. In addition to the proposals before the Advisory Committee, Annex II presents two scenarios that might be considered by the Advisory Committee in preparing the agenda.

42. A follow-up plan might be prepared to indicate courses of actions to be pursued by interested Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as the private sector, as appropriate, to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III. Such a plan should include objectives to be achieved, thematic areas, approaches to be taken and results to be expected. The plan should also identify mechanisms to implement follow-up actions and existing funding sources that might support the activities.

43. As the follow-up plan should allow for concrete results in space applications in the near future, through enhanced international cooperation, it is essential that follow-up activities to be included in the plan should be realistic and feasible, particularly in terms of financial requirements. Consideration might be given to strengthening some of the ongoing international and regional efforts in the relevant areas of space activities already supported by countries and organizations, rather than launching a large number of new initiatives. Such ongoing efforts are exemplified by the activities of the United Nations, including those under its Programme on Space Applications, follow-up activities to the regional conferences, including the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific Region, held at Beijing from 19 to 24 September 1994, and the Third Conference of the Americas, held at Punta del Este, Uruguay, from 4 to 8 November 1996, as well as activities undertaken by other organizations within and outside the United Nations system. Those efforts aim at the promotion of, *inter alia*, the use of space technology and enhancement of information networks to combat natural disasters, the expansion of astronomical observatory networks at the global level, as well as the coordination of training and educational programmes in space science and technology at the regional level for decision makers, the general public and the younger generation.

B. Possible organization of work

44. The substantive work of UNISPACE III may be conducted by the plenary, two or three committees and a working group of the whole. The number of committees would depend on the agenda of UNISPACE III, bearing in mind that in view of the availability of conference resources, only two committees could meet simultaneously. Considering the maximum duration of UNISPACE III, the number of possible issues to be the focus of work and the maximum number of meetings to be held within existing resources, which would be four per day, the substantive work of UNISPACE III might be best conducted by three committees, while fully utilizing the allocated conference resources. Paragraphs 45 to 48 below suggest how the substantive work might be allocated to the above-mentioned bodies.

45. The opening and closing of UNISPACE III should take place at the first and last plenary meetings. The organization of work of UNISPACE III should be done in the plenary meetings, including the election of officers, the adoption of the agenda and rules of procedure and the establishment of committees. The plenary should also adopt the report of UNISPACE III. National statements by heads of delegation as well as general statements by representatives of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations should also be made in plenary meetings.

46. The main function of the committees will be to examine specific subjects under their corresponding theme in a comprehensive manner, taking into account the views of experts and policy makers. Other subjects will be addressed in the plenary. Results of special sessions, workshops and seminars on those subjects, which may be organized as preparatory activities, will also be considered by the relevant committees.

47. The committees will also finalize the documents to be adopted at UNISPACE III. At the conclusion of its work, each committee will submit its report to the plenary.

48. The main function of the Working Group of the Whole would be to prepare the entire report of UNISPACE III, reflecting results of discussions and recommendations by the committees. The Working Group of the Whole will also compile follow-up plans submitted by the committees for adoption at UNISPACE III.

C. Indicative schedule of activities

49. Within a period of 10 days, the work of UNISPACE III may be scheduled as follows:

Day	*Activity*
1-3	Plenary meetings Opening Election of officers Adoption of the agenda and the rules of procedure Establishment of committees National statements and general statements by representatives of inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations
1-9	Meetings of the committees (The work of the committees will start from the afternoon of the first day) Meetings of the Working Group of the Whole (as necessary)
9 and 10	Plenary meetings Adoption of the report

D. Additional issues for consideration

50. In order for UNISPACE III to yield concrete results in international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, sufficient consideration should be given to the planning of realistic and feasible follow-up activities that may be implemented in accordance with the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The recommendations should be sharply focused, and they may indicate some defined goals that may be achieved within a short period of time. During the preparatory phase for UNISPACE III, it is suggested that draft recommendations be prepared and given due consideration well in advance, particularly in terms of possible financial implications and the feasibility of the implementation of those recommendations.

51. In order to ensure adequate discussions of scientific and technical issues, it is proposed that there be an additional scientific and technical component to be organized through voluntary contributions in the following form:

(a) *Poster sessions*. A series of scientific and technical poster sessions may be held at the site of UNISPACE III, and be open to participants and observers throughout UNISPACE III;

(b) *Public evening lectures*. To be given by eminent scientists in various space-related scientific disciplines and distinguished figures in space-related activities, on subjects of broad interest to conference participants and the general public;

(c) *Space exhibition*. To be organized in cooperation with interested space agencies, space-related intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and private industries, at no cost to the United Nations;

(d) *UNISPACE forum*. To be organized by intergovernmental and non-governmental scientific and technical organizations, including organizations within the United Nations system, to be held for a limited period during UNISPACE III.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-first Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/51/20).

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992* (A/CONF.151/26/Rev.1 (Vol. I and Vol. I/Corr.1, Vol. II, Vol. III and Vol. III/Corr. 1)) (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.1.8 and corrigenda), vol. 1: *Resolutions Adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

Annex I

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO UNISPACE III

Table 1. Documents containing the results of deliberations on UNISPACE III in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (1993-1996)

Year	*Committee*	*Scientific and Technical Subcommittee*
1993	A/48/20,[a] paras. 123-124	A/AC.105/543, annex II, para. 20
1994	A/49/20,[b] paras. 144-149	A/AC.105/571, paras. 109-116, and annex II, paras. 20-21
1995	A/50/20,[c] paras. 157-165	A/AC.105/605, paras. 129-131, annex II, paras. 13-59, and appendix to annex II
1996	A/51/20, paras. 170-185	A/AC.105/637, paras. 183-186, and annex II, paras. 14-43

[a] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 20.*
[b] Ibid., *Forty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 20.*
[c] Ibid., *Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20.*

Table 2. Documents containing proposals made by Member States on UNISPACE III

Year	*Document*	*Title*	*Submitted by*
1994	A/AC.105/C.1/L.191	Other matters: Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space	Pakistan
	A/AC.105/C.1/L.195	Preliminary concept paper for UNISPACE III	India
	A/AC.105/C.1/L.199	Working paper submitted by the Group of 77	G-77
	A/AC.105/1994/CRP.5	Possible provisional agenda for a third UNISPACE conference	Chairman of the Committee
1996	A/AC.105/637, annex II, appendix I	Views of the Group of 77 countries members of COPUOS regarding the holding of the third UNISPACE conference	G-77
	A/AC.105/637, annex II, appendix II	Proposal on holding the UNISPACE III conference	Czech Republic
	A/AC.105/637, annex II, appendix III	Other means	United Kingdom

Table 3. Reports on UNISPACE III prepared by the Secretariat

Year	*Document*	*Title*
1994	A/AC.105/575	Matters related to the possible holding of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (contents: possible rationale; analysis of UNISPACE 82; possible organization of UNISPACE III)
1995	A/AC.105/575/Add.1	Matters related to the possible holding of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (contents: possible agenda of UNISPACE III; additional ideas on UNISPACE III)
	A/AC.105/1995/CRP.7	Matters related to the possible holding of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (contents: technical workshops)
1996	Informal paper	General ideas on a third UNISPACE conference or alternatives (contents: alternative means to achieve the objectives of UNISPACE III)

Annex II

POSSIBLE APPROACHES AND ISSUES TO BE CONSIDERED AT UNISPACE III

A. Scenario I

1. UNISPACE III might concentrate on a few areas of space science and technology and their applications. The subjects indicated below in subparagraphs (a) through (d) have been extracted from recent discussions in the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee; from the priorities indicated by participants in United Nations workshops, conferences and seminars organized under the Programme on Space Applications; and from the views of Member States obtained through efficiency review surveys conducted by the Office for Outer Space Affairs during the sessions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and Legal Subcommittee held in 1996. It should be noted, however, that the following is only as an indicative list of subjects on which discussions could be focused at UNISPACE III. The list of items under each subject is open-ended. The subjects are as follows:

(a) Applications of remote sensing satellite technology:

(i) Earth observation: monitoring of the global environment;
(ii) Enhancement of weather forecasting and monitoring of natural disasters;
(iii) Land and water resources management;

(b) Applications of space technology for communication and navigation:

(i) Broadcasting systems;
(ii) Mobile telecommunication systems;
(iii) Tele-education and telemedicine;
(iv) Emergency systems: early warning and search and rescue systems, on the Earth and in outer space;
(v) Air, sea and land traffic management;

(c) Advancement of space science:

(i) Astronomical observation network;
(ii) Planetary science missions;
(iii) Life science and space medicine;
(iv) Technological requirements for advancement of space science;

(d) Secondary effects and side effects of space activities:

(i) Spin-offs of space technology, including secondary uses of space technology for public safety, health and medicine, industrial productivity, development of information technology and recreation;
(ii) Expanded space activities and effects on the Earth and space environment:
a. Space debris;
b. Use of nuclear power sources.

2. For each of the subjects indicated in subparagraphs (a)-(d) above the following three issues could be addressed:

(a) Existing space technologies, applications of those technologies and on-going and planned programmes and projects;

(b) Specific needs of developing countries, possible modes of international cooperation to meet their needs and expected outcomes of such cooperation;

(c) Constraints faced by the spacefaring nations or developed countries in conducting space activities and the role of international cooperation.

B. Scenario II

3. The work of UNISPACE III might be divided into the following three themes of international cooperation in space activities: means of promoting space activities; problems of global and regional significance to be addressed by space technology; and specific requirements, particularly those of the developing countries, for attaining further benefits from space activities. In light of the above, an indicative list of themes is present below. The subjects under each theme are listed only as examples. The themes are as follows:

(a) Advances in space research and applications:

(i) Basic space sciences;
(ii) Large missions;
(iii) Global research: climate change (depletion of the ozone layer and green-house effects);
(iv) Technological advances and spin-offs;

(b) Space applications as solutions to problems of global concern:

(i) Disaster prevention, warning, mitigation and relief;
(ii) Rural education and medical services;
(iii) Food security;
(iv) Desertification;
(v) Urban development;

(c) Capacity-building and increase in awareness of space benefits:

(i) Education and training;
(ii) Pilot projects as a means of introducing space technology;
(iii) Awareness of space benefits: decision makers and general public.

4. The work to be conducted under the above-mentioned three themes is interrelated. Discussions to be conducted under theme (a) would focus on the latest developments in space research and applications, including the technological capability of spacefaring nations in conducting space activities and the scientific discoveries resulting from them. The work to be conducted under theme (b) would identify combinations of space technologies that can be used to solve problems of global concern. While some solutions may be found in space applications, development of human resources to utilize available and innovative space technologies is crucial. At the same time, decision makers as well as the general public need to be convinced that space applications could offer cost-effective solutions to problems of global concern, as well as further enriching their lives. The work to be undertaken under theme (c) would therefore complement the work under themes (a) and (b).

5. It should be noted that discussions under each of the above-mentioned themes should involve both decision makers and experts. In determining the organization of work of UNISPACE III, due consideration should be given to the scheduling of meetings of committees to be established to address the three themes.

Annex III

PRELIMINARY RESPONSES FROM ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Issues of interest to the organizations

1. The main issues of interest have been identified as follows:

(a) Use of remote sensing technology for monitoring the global environment and sustainable development (Department of Development Support and Management Sources (DDSMS), Economic Commission for Europe (ECE), Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO):

(i) Man-made and natural forest damage; lacustrine and coastal water pollution; water resource depletion; atmospheric composition; and land use changes (ECE);
(ii) Use of space technology in the implementation of Agenda 21 UNEP, United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR);
a. Coordination of activities related to technology transfer (UNITAR, for African countries);
b. Coordination of activities related to various conventions adopted in the aftermath of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 3 to 14 June 1992 (including the conventions on climate change, biodiversity and desertification) (UNITAR);

(b) Use of spatial data and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technology in the area of statistical information systems (ECE);

(c) Dissemination of satellite data for developing countries (ECLAC):

(i) Access to satellite information;
(ii) Improvement of technical capacity of developing countries in the interpretation and use of satellite data (also UNITAR, for African countries);

(d) Enhancement of regional coordination in remote sensing activities (ECLAC, UNITAR):

(i) Increased efficiency of satellite coverage (ECLAC);
(ii) Coordination among receiving stations (ECLAC);

(e) Convention on the Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident[a] and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency[b] and their relationship to the United Nations treaties and principles on outer space International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

(f) Communication and navigation:

(i) Air-traffic management (International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO));
(ii) Sea-traffic management (International Maritime Organization (IMO));

(g) Science, education, communication and culture (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO));

(h) Protection of intellectual property relating to space activities (World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO));

(i) Enhancement/introduction of the use of space technology in mandated activities of the organizations through enhanced inter-agency coordination (United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), UNITAR);

(j) Benefit from high-technology spin-offs (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO));

(i) Increase in the technological capacity of developing countries for sustainable competitiveness through technology transfer, promotion of investments and formulation of a relevant national policy.

B. Modes of participation

2. The principal modes of participation are as follows:

(a) Organization of preparatory activities:

(i) Organization by ESCAP of a preparatory meeting for Asia and the Pacific (the Intergovernmental Consultative Committee of ESCAP might be used as a special forum for the exchange of views and information on national preparations for UNISPACE III);

(b) Assistance in organizing special sessions, seminars and workshops during UNISPACE III:

(i) ECE for topics under paragraph 1 (b) (demonstration of GIS);
(ii) ESCAP;
(iii) FAO for topics under paragraph 1 (a) and in the fields of its competence (i.e. assessment, monitoring and management of the environment, renewable natural resources, forestry, fisheries and agriculture);
(iv) ICAO for topics under paragraph 1 (f), subparagraph (i), as well as the Global Navigation Satellite System concept and its operational, legal and institutional aspects;
(v) UNIDO for topics under paragraph 1 (j);

(c) Technical demonstrations during UNISPACE III:

(i) UNEP for topics under paragraph 1 (a), subparagraph (ii), particularly the operation of the Mercure project);

(d) Participation in poster sessions/exhibitions during UNISPACE III:

(i) ECE on topics under paragraph 1 (b);
(ii) IAEA on topics under paragraph 1 (e) and its report on emergency planning and preparedness for re-entry of a nuclear powered satellite;
(iii) UNESCO on topics under paragraph 1 (g);

(e) Submission of background papers to UNISPACE III:

(i) ESCAP on a comprehensive regional inventory on space technology development and applications;

(ii) IAEA on topics under paragraph 1 (e) and its report on emergency planning and preparedness for re-entry of a nuclear powered satellite;
(iii) ICAO on its activities in communications, navigation and surveillance/air-traffic management.

C. Other Proposals

3. Other major proposals are as follows:

(a) Consideration of the results of the International Round Table on Global Mapping for the Monitoring of Global Environmental Changes, organized by Japan and the United States of America and held at Santa Barbara, California, from 13 to 16 November 1996 (DDSMS):

(i) Cartographic application of space data, archiving and distribution;
(ii) Harmonization of activities for the protection of the environment;

(b) Inclusion of international and regional conferences arranged and coordinated by organizations within the United Nations system as part of preparatory and post-session activities of UNISPACE III. As part of preparatory activities, they could provide input into discussions at UNISPACE III, and as part of post-UNISPACE-III activities, they could consider the implementation of recommendations of UNISPACE III. The following might be considered as conferences designed to enhance the work of UNISPACE III (Office for Outer Space Affairs):

(i) Second Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific, to be held in 1999 (ESCAP);
(ii) AFRICAGIS '97, to be held at Gaborone, Botswana, in June 1997, as a part of the regional preparatory activities in Africa (UNITAR);

(c) Structuring of workshops to provide a balance between technical content and effective interaction with policy makers. Workshops should be considered as integrated parts of UNISPACE III, and not as stand-alone events World Meteorological Organization (WMO).

Notes

[a]International Atomic Energy Agency, *Final Document: Resolutions and Conventions, adopted by the first special session of the General Conference, 24-26 September 1986* (GC(SPL.1)/RESOLUTIONS (1986)), chap. III.

[b]Ibid., chap. IV.